

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-16, 19, 21-32 and 75-84 were examined. Claim 13-16, 29-30 and 78 are canceled. Claims 79 and 82-84 are amended. Claims 3, 5-16, 19, 21-32, 75-77 and 79-84 remain in the Application.

The Patent Office finds claims 3, 5-16, 19, 21-32 and 75-84 allowable over the prior art of record. The Patent Office rejects claims 78 and 82-84 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

A. Objection to Claims 79-81

The Patent Office objects to claims 79-81 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise finds such claims allowable over the prior art of record. Applicant amends claim 79 to incorporate the limitations of claim 78. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office withdraw the objection to claims 79-81.

B. 35 U.S.C. §103(a): Rejection of Claims 78 & 82-84

The Patent Office rejects claims 78 and 82-84 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,835,193 of Epstein, et al. (Epstein) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,217,554 of Green (Green). Claim 78 is canceled and claims 82-84 are amended to depend from claim 79. Applicant believes the amendments to claims 82-84 render the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) moot. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office withdraw the rejection of claims 82-84.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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